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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 RABAT 02222 171028Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5139

S E C R E T RABAT 2222

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: OVIP, MO, US
SUBJ: KING HASSAN'S DESIRE TO SEE PRESIDENT CARTER DURING LATTER PART OF MAY

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BOUCETTA ASKED ME TO SEE HIM APRIL 14 TO RECEIVE A MESSAGE FROM KING HASSAN, WHO IS STILL IN FEZ. DURING AN HOUR'S MEETING THAT EVENING, WITH AMBASSADOR BENGELLOUN ALSO PRESENT, BOUCETTA RECALLED HIS MARCH 14 CONVERSATION WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE TO WHOM HE CONVYED THE KING'S DESIRE FOR A BRIEF WORKING VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT (STATE 070308). HE ASKED ME TO REPORT URGENTLY TO WASHINGTON THAT THE KING HAD NOW DEFINITELY DECIDED TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES AND HOPED TO SEE THE PRESIDENT "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE." RECOGNIZING THE PRESIDENT'S ALWAYS CROWDED CALENDAR, THE KING SUGGESTS A DAY OR DAY AND A HALF STRICLY WORKING VISIT BETWEEN MAY 20 AND MAY 30 AT A TIME CONVENIENT TO THE PRESIDENT. HIS PREFERENCE WOULD BE BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE UN SPECIAL DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE, WHERE HE PLANS TO SPEND A DAY ON MAY 24 OR 25. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO VISIT WASHINGTON AFTER ATTENDING THE UN SESSION. BOUCETTA UNDERLINED THE GREAT IMPORTANCE THE KING ATTACHED TO MEETING THE PRESIDENT FOR A THOROUGH REVIEW OF U.S.-MOROCCAN RELATIONS, OF PEACE EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND OF GROWING INSTABILITY ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT.

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2. BENGELLOUN WILL BE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON ON APRIL 16 AND HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE DEPARTMENT ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. COMMENT: KING AND HIS CLOSE ADVISERS ARE CLEARLY DEEPLY CONCERNED AT WHAT THEY SEE AS A LESS THAN POSITIVE TREND IN US-

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MOROCCAN RELATIONS. THEY ARE PERPLEXED OVER THE ADMINISTRATION'S
POLICY TO DEAL WITH THE THREAT OF INCREASING RADICALISM IN
THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE
MAGHREB. KING HASSAN OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERS HIS PRESENCE IN WASHINGTON
ESSENTIAL TO PRESENT HIS ANALYSES FIRST-HAND, TO GAIN A CLEARER
PERCEPTION OF U.S. THINKING AND TO REINFORCE U.S.-MOROCCAN
RELATIONS. THE U.S. RESPONSE TO THE KING'S URGENT DESIRE TO MEET
THE PRESIDENT FOR THE FIRST TIME WILL INEVITABLY BE TAKEN AS
A DIRECT MEASURE OF OUR GOODWILL TOWARD THIS LONG-STANDING FRIEND.

ANDERSON

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